

# ANACONDA TIMES

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Proudly serving Logistics Support Area Anaconda

October 24, 2004



Photos by Pfc. Abel Trevino

Col. Blair Hansen, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, Gregory Warner, KBR Project Manager, Col. Joseph C. Hightower, 13th COSCOM Chief of Staff, Col. Ronnie R. Cox, 852nd Rear Area Operations Center commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Johnson, 852nd RAOC command sergeant major officially cutting the ribbon for the grand opening of the pool house as Morale, Welfare and Recreation manager Jeremy Nelms looks on.



One of the LSA Anaconda outdoor pool lifeguards sits in his chair in front of the pool house.



Dexter Emory, Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinator and lifeguard, connects the stereo, located at the back patio of the pool house, to the speakers.

## Pool house full of amenities

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

Another quality-of-life milestone was set when the pool house for the outdoor pool was officially opened Oct. 15.

"[The completion of this facility] is a great big win for the troops at Anaconda," said Col. Blair Hansen, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander.

He continued to say that the pool is a representation of the commitment between the military and their contractors to supply the best facilities for the troops stationed here now and in the future.

"It's fantastic," said Sari Berman, assistant KBR project manager. "This is one of the few places, probably in Iraq, where you can walk in and take a hot shower [with] state of the art plumbing facilities; [there are] hairdryers in there and brand new lockers. You can take your time changing into [swim] suits and you don't have to go outside to use the latrine."

The facilities house separate male and female changing rooms and showers, each with 500 lockers, six showers and

restroom facilities, said Jeremy Nelms, Morale, Welfare and Recreation manager.

Those living here can experience an increase in the quality of life from the efforts of MWR, said KBR project manager Gerald Warner said.

On hand for the ceremony was Lt. Col. CJ Masters, 172nd Corps Support Group, whose unit lived in the pool house a year ago before the reconstruction of the building.

"It's a difference of night and day," Masters said about the renovation of the building. "The [changes] are too major to describe."

Masters said the conditions of the former building were simple, with the living areas cordoned off from the rest of the building, which was in dilapidated condition.

Prior improvements to the pool have also including replacing the single pump, used to filter the water of the pool, with a dual pump system.

Hansen, Warner, Col. Joseph C. Hightower, 13th Corps Support Command chief of staff, Col. Ronnie R. Cox, 852nd Rear Area Operations Center commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Johnson, 852nd RAOC command sergeant major, were the official ribbon cutters.

## No shortage of vaccine

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

Beginning Nov. 1, all personnel stationed at LSA Anaconda are authorized to receive inoculations against influenza at the Troop Medical Clinic on New Jersey Ave.

The Department of Defense requires service members to get the influenza vaccination.

"Everyone here is supposed to receive the influenza vaccine. Our primary concern are military personnel, but everyone in this theater is supposed to receive the vaccine," said Sgt. Carlton Lee Overton, Immunization NCO, Headquarters Support Company, 118th Medical Battalion.

The shortage of the influenza vaccine in the United States will not affect us here, said Carlton.

"About a month and a half ago we were told to figure out how much [vaccine] we were going to need. We ordered 15,000 vials and of that we'll probably receive about 10,000 vials," Overton said. "We ordered enough of the vaccination to cover 90 percent of the post at any given time."

Overton is not sure if the TMC will receive the split or 12-month vaccination. The split vaccination is a two-part inoculation, with one shot given every six months.

Overton said he expects to get the two-part vaccination due to the advantages it has when it comes to seasonal changes. People tend to get flu like symptoms when the seasons change and in the states they typically issue the vaccine in October and April to

see VACCINE, page 4



***Congratulations to this week's winners of the second annual LSA Anaconda Ten-Miler. The champions' names will be announced in the Oct. 31 edition of Anaconda Times.***



# Funny money floats around LSA Anaconda

Spc. Leah R. Burton  
Staff writer

Counterfeit U.S. currency has been making its way into unsuspecting service members' and civilians' wallets all around LSA Anaconda.

The most common denominations in which these bills are found are \$50s and \$100s, and the most common way they end up in the hands of service members is from exchanging money with local nationals.

Not only is exchanging money with local nationals in violation of General Order 1A, it increases Soldiers' chances of receiving counterfeit bills.

"Those bills are very good quality. Only trained people who know what to look for will be able to spot them," said Special Agent Jose Aponte, 75th Military Police Detachment (Criminal Investigation Command).

Although there are some very authentic looking forgeries floating around, there are a number of graphic elements in U.S. currency that are difficult, if not impossible, for counterfeiters to replicate. These features include a security thread that runs vertically from the top of the bill to the bottom and microprinting — that is fine print

that appears as a thin line unless viewed under a low-power magnifier.

The new U.S. currency has additional security features including a watermark of the same image as the presidential portrait, color-shifting inks, and fine-line printing patterns, especially around the portrait on the front of the bill.

Because it would be cumbersome and time consuming for cashiers to look for all these elements in every bill, there are other measures money-handlers take to guarantee the authenticity of the money.

"I use three types of preventive measures to ensure that they are not coming into our office and to ensure that they are not distributed through my cashiers," said Staff Sgt. Noreen Deshazor, 126th Finance Battalion. "I use the money counter, which has a magnetic strip indicator on it, the counterfeit pen, and I visually review each bill as well."

The counterfeit pen contains an iodine solution that reacts to wood-based paper leaving a black stain. On the fiber-based paper used to make real U.S. currency, the stain retains its amber coloration. These pens are sold commercially and are available to anyone.

"Finance is not going to issue you a fake bill. They're

very professional. They have the tools and the training to identify counterfeit bills," Aponte said.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service receives all of its money from and deposits all of its money to the 126th Fin. Bn. Upon receiving cash from finance or from paying customers, AAFES personnel also use the counterfeit pen to prevent fraudulent money from finding its way into the tills.

Once the finance or AAFES personnel identify a bill as counterfeit, they will detain the customer and call CID who will then question the individual as to where he or she got the counterfeit money. CID keeps the phony money for further investigation. To date, no one has been compensated for his or her losses.

When service members and civilians are in need of cash, they should go to the finance battalion, cash a check or get casual pay.

"Please count your money before you leave the window. If people want to use the counterfeit pen, my cashiers each have one in their windows, and they can mark it for them," Deshazor said. "But in most cases, people don't count their bills or verify them before they leave the window. A lot of Soldiers aren't even aware that there are counterfeit bills floating around the installation."

## Holiday mail deadlines for parcel post priority, first-class letters

The U.S. Postal Services released the 2004 holiday recommended mailing dates for troops serving in Iraq.

■ Mail going to APO addresses has a 70-pound limit, as does outgoing mail. The following are recommended deadlines to reach the recipient in time.

Packages that are sent by parcel post should be postmarked by Nov. 13.

The space available mail deadline is Nov. 27, and parcel airlift is Dec. 4.

Priority mail, first-class cards and letter should be mailed by Dec. 6.

Check with the local post office for express mail availability to this APO; Dec. 20 is the deadline for mailing.

■ Deadlines for sending mail state-side are:

- Space available – Nov. 20.
- Parcel airlift – Dec. 4
- Priority mail or first-class cards and letters – Dec. 11

"We are only doing Express Mail for ballots and that will be done from [today] through Nov. 1," said Lt. Jacqueline Williams, 175th Adjutant General Company (Postal).

## Installing fiber optics improve communications

By Spc. Steven J. Schneider  
Staff writer

Soldiers from the 301st Signal Company, out of Virginia, are out all around LSA Anaconda laying copper and fiber optic wire to help improve communications across the post.

The project will take at least three to four months and will replace many of the tactical phones on post with more reliable and higher quality commercial lines.

These commercial lines will improve not only phone service but Internet service as well.

The 301st Sig. Co. Soldiers are no stranger to laying this kind of cable. In fact, Master Sgt. Michael Hunter said that's exactly what they're good at and is their primary mission in Iraq.

"Providing the new data and phone lines will improve the systems already in place," he said. "What we tend to do is take out a lot of the tactical equipment used now



Photo by Spc. Steven J. Schneider  
Spc. Zachary Wood, 301st Signal Company, works underground running fiber optic cable for land line phones to replace the tactical phones currently used on LSA Anaconda.

out and install commercial lines to improve speed and quality."

At this time, the unit is running a central line about three to four miles from the center of post to the battle control center for the signal network here.

The Soldiers are spread out across LSA Anaconda dropping down into holes removing old, unusable cables and installing the new fiber optic cables.

Many of the holes have standing water in the bottom, a limited quantity of light and very high temperatures.

This didn't stop Soldiers like Spc. Zachary Wood from jumping at the chance of doing the job. Wood said he joined the Army to work with cable and communications and is willing to brave the conditions to do so.

Running the cable underground is only part of the job though. The communications systems also need to run to buildings. Hunter worked with his Soldiers chipping away at walls and replacing old wires with new ones.

They ran into problems along the way, once having to use a Humvee to pull out an unserviceable wire, but Hunter said his Soldiers can finish the job in about two weeks, and they look forward to making LSA Anaconda a better place for service members.

Improving communications is just one step in making LSA Anaconda a better place to live, he said.

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# Infantrymen honored

By Capt. Vincent Heintz  
2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry

As a company commander, I stand before our platoons and award the Combat Infantryman's Badge to our Soldiers. I am struck by the honor and reverence paid to this symbol of courage and determination by the very Soldiers who dedicate themselves to excellence on every combat mission.

This award was created to recognize the sacrifice and hardships the infantryman endures during his combat service. There is no award that infantry Soldiers desire more than the Combat Infantryman's Badge. This badge is a symbol of their courage and determination. It cannot be earned by any other means than doing the job they have trained for, engaging the enemy in direct contact. It is an honor that many other Soldiers may never have the opportunity to earn. It is an honor bestowed upon few members of the military.

As I look around the country of Iraq, through the eyes and ears of my Soldiers, my leaders and the news media, I begin to understand just how well our Soldiers are performing.

We are asked to perform our mission on a day-to-day basis in an extremely dangerous area. Yet, we realize that it can always get worse. We read about and hear about the sacrifices being made in Samarra, Fallujah, Baqubah and Najaf and we realize that our area can always become more dangerous. We pay homage to our brother Soldiers, Airmen and Marines who serve in these deadly areas.

We live in a dangerous place and in a dangerous time, yet each day we continue to perform at the highest levels. We are vigilant and alert for any action taken against us and ready to continue the fight to make Iraq a free and sovereign nation founded on democratic ideals.

We spend as much of our time focused on military operations, as we do on civil military operations, all in the best interests of the Iraqi people.

The sacrifices made by United States Soldiers are great and are not always recognized and published by the media. All of the great things we have done for the people of Iraq should be reported, and recognized for what they are, just like the regular Soldiers over here are recognized with our badge of honor, the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Baghdad, 1Kw on 92.3 and 107.7 FM  
Kirkuk, 200w on 100.1 and 107.3 FM  
LSA Anaconda (Balad, Iraq), 250w on 107.3 FM  
Mosul, 1Kw on 105.1 FM  
Q-West, 250w on 93.3 FM  
Sinjar, 250w on 107.9 FM  
Tallil, 200w on 100.1 and 107.3 FM  
Tikrit, 1Kw on 93.3 FM



The *Anaconda Times* has  
a dedicated Web site  
containing the current  
and past issues at  
[www.mnf-iraq.com/coalition-news/publications/anaconda.htm](http://www.mnf-iraq.com/coalition-news/publications/anaconda.htm)



## Pvt. Murphy's Law

меня забудь: Ms. YABLAKAVA.  
как вас забудь?

меня забудь: FRANK

Defense  
Language  
Institute

Presidio of Monterey, CA

меня забудь: Ms. YABLAKAVA.  
как вас забудь?

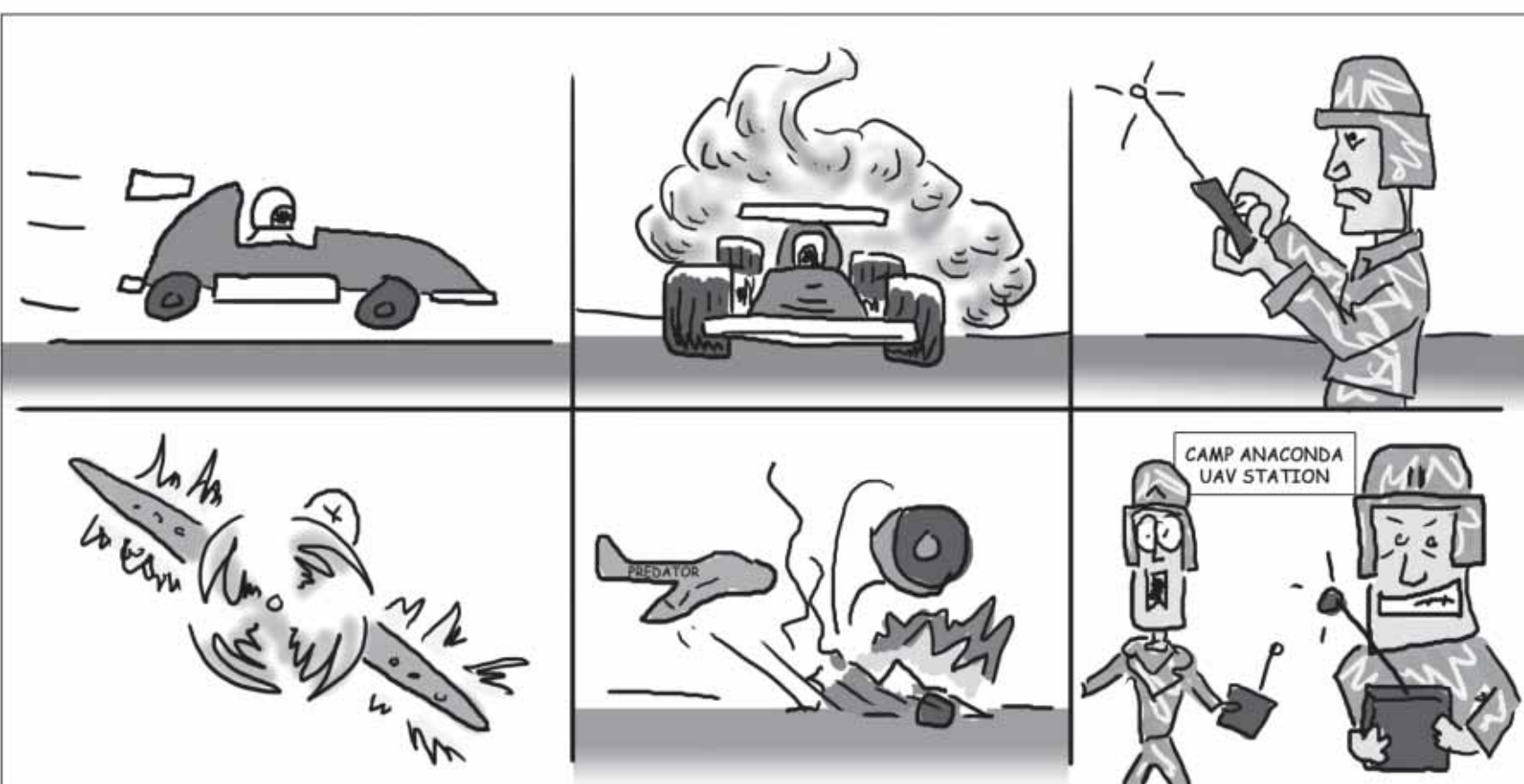
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меня забудь: Ms. YABLAKAVA.  
как вас забудь?

SAY WHAT?

**ARMY  
OF ME**

by Aaron Thacker  
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## Left Shoulder Diary

# 21st Theater Support Command

Compiled from  
Unit History

The shoulder sleeve insignia of the 21st Theater Support command is characterized by a yellow shield, which has a blue border, and a blue millrind centered throughout the shield.

The millrind is the iron reinforcement fixed in the center of a millstone to support the stone as it revolves on its axle when grinding wheat. It is used as a symbol of support. The additional reference to wheat, the "staff of life," stands for the vital and varied support furnished by the organization. The insignia was originally approved Feb. 11, 1966 for the 1st Support Brigade and carried over to the 21st Support Command when they were redesignated as such on Oct. 15, 1976.

21st Theater Support Command provides trained and ready forces to conduct theater-level deployment and redeployment support for a contingency force in support of European Command and Joint Chiefs of Staff — directed regional military objectives, or in support of NATO and U.N. military objectives; theater-level sustainment including military industrial operations, materiel distribution, split-based operations, and deployable logistics force packages; reception, staging, onward movement and integration activities; and force reconstitution as required.

The lineage of the 21st Theater Sup. Cmd. began June 23, 1965 with the activation of the 1st Sup. Bde, a maintenance support headquarters under 7th Army Support Command. After the United States military withdrawal from France in 1967 and the organization of the U.S. Theater Army Support Command, Europe (TASCOM), the brigade became the rear area counterpart of the newly formed corps support commands.

Assigned to TASCOM in 1969, 1st Support Brigade was responsible for providing combat service support for U.S. units in the area west of the Rhein River.

In 1974, TASCOM was merged with Headquarters, United States Army, Europe, and the missions of 1st Sup. Bde. were expanded to include base operations support for eight military communities as well as the management of regional area support. The Department of the Army approved the elevation of the command's position on Aug. 19, 1976 and the brigade was redesignated 21st Sup. Cmd.

In June 1981, the President of the United States elevated the command's position again to reflect the unit's status as a Theater Army Area Command. The 21st Sup. Cmd. was officially redesignated the 21st Theater Army Area Command On Oct. 18, 1988.

Many Soldiers from the 21st Theater Sup. Com. are here supporting logistics operations.

Edward P. Williams, from Los Angeles, Calif., is a Sample Data Collector for Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity.

Williams's job involves keeping records of data for various kinds of wheeled, track and aviation equipment.

"I capture data on things like parts, downtime and man hours required to bring [equipment] back up," he said.

His work benefits Soldiers by identifying problems and getting them fixed as soon as possible.

"If a generator needed to be replaced and then, two weeks later, was broken again, and there's a recurrence of this part our data would tell AMSAA to check on who's making the generators," he said. "We would do our part to make sure the Soldiers get a generator that works properly."

The most challenging part of his job is keeping track of details that may seem unimportant to other people. "I have to maintain records of mileage and usage of vehicles — information that isn't necessarily top



Edward P. Williams

## Civilian of the Week

priority in a combat zone," he said.

Williams organizes the data into a monthly trends report after he has compiled it.

His reports move all the way up the Army's hierarchy to the Pentagon, where decisions about the Army's future purchases and expenditures are made.

"The best part of my job is when I hear three- and four-star generals say how our work is helping the Soldiers. It's a good feeling to know you're helping someone out and bring problems to the attention of the higher-ups," he said.

Back home, Williams does the same work at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

The data he gathers in Iraq differs greatly from what he sees in the United States.

According to Williams, the heat and high rate of wear have been hard on the Army's equipment.

"It's unbelievable how many engines we've gone through here," he said.

Working with the Army is nothing new for Williams. A veteran of Vietnam, he used to work in transportation.

Williams began military data collection in Kuwait in 1999 and has been in Iraq since July 2003. His first contract ended in January 2004, but he decided to extend until January 2006 because of the differences he has been able to make.

"They told me I was a necessity here," he said. "I miss home, but I decided to stay because I really felt needed."

His wife misses him, but has been very supportive of his decision to stay, he said.

Williams first met his wife when she was 12 years old and he was 14.

"I was her first boyfriend," he said. Life took them in separate directions, but they reunited in 1984 and have been together ever since, despite his long periods away from home.

He has four adult children, and is the proud grandfather of five, with the sixth due in January -- during the time he is scheduled to go on leave.

"I just can't wait to see my new grandson," he said.

With the exception of his family, the thing Williams misses most from home is watching live sports.

"You can still watch boxing and football here, but you already know all the scores and results," he said. "I miss watching the games firsthand, as they happen."

VACCINE from page 1 coincide with that.

There are side affects associated with receiving the influenza vaccination. These range from the mild symptoms such as soreness, redness and swelling at the shot area to severe symptoms, which include paleness, weakness, dizziness and hay fever. As with all vaccinations, if someone experiences any of these symptoms they should seek medical advice from a doctor, Overton said.

"When you do get the influenza vaccine, like any other vaccine, your body is going to feel run down," Overton said.

He advised staying hydrated, eating healthy and rest to avoid the side effects.

Unlike other vaccinations given at

the TMC, the influenza vaccine is not a live virus, but an inactivated version of the flu virus that causes the body to develop immunity to the disease, Overton said.

Military personnel are advised to make appointments to receive their inoculations. Those with appointments will take prior-

ity over walk-in clients receiving any of thier shots, including the influenza vaccination, Overton said.

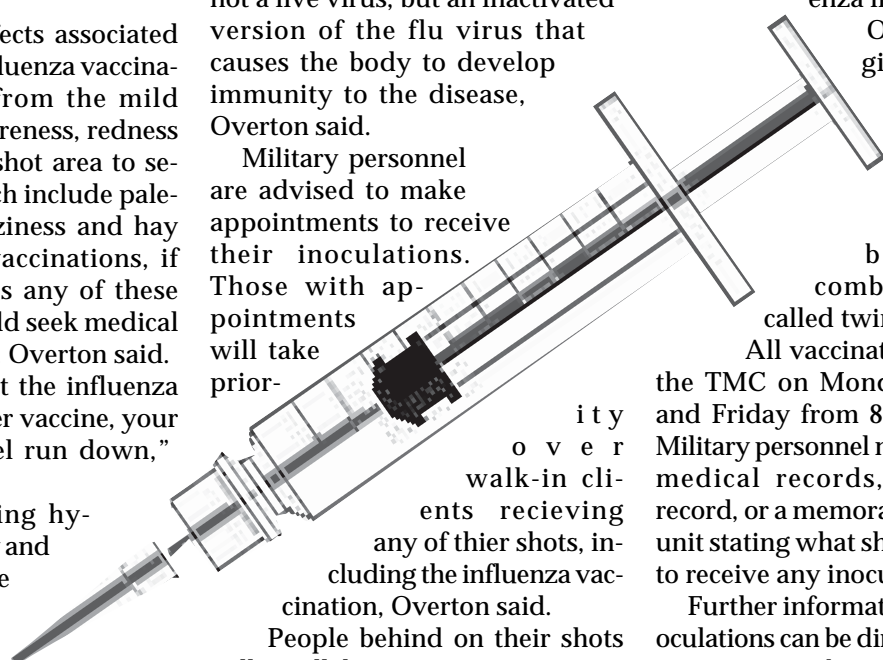
People behind on their shots will get all their vaccinations at once

when they show up to get the influenza inoculation.

Other vaccinations given at the TMC include anthrax, smallpox, tetanus and diphtheria, hepatitis a and b separately and a combination of both called twinrix.

All vaccinations are given at the TMC on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. till 10 a.m. Military personnel need to bring their medical records, personal shot record, or a memorandum from their unit stating what shots are necessary to receive any inoculations.

Further information regarding inoculations can be directed to the TMC at DNVN number 529-6472.



# Soldiers learn to represent equality

By Sgt. Ann Venturato  
*Assistant editor*

About 30 students from around LSA Anaconda attended a week-long class to become equal opportunity representatives for their companies and battalions Oct. 4 through 8.

This was the first EOR class given here, said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Porter, equal opportunity advisor, 13th Corps Support Command. An EOR differs from an EOA in what they can do.

"The course is designed to give us a quick overview of what the responsibilities and duties are for an equal opportunity representative. This is not the EO advisor class which is a fifteen week-long class," said Capt. Sonya Powell, battalion S-1, 6th Battalion, 52nd Aviation.

Porter, along with two instructors from Baghdad, taught the Soldiers how to be EORs. Porter made the course shorter so it wouldn't put a strain on a unit's mission. Although the training the students received is normally two weeks long, they were equipped with an informational compact disc to assist them in answering questions that they might field.

Equal opportunity covers a wide spectrum, said Sgt. Kirk Thompson, Company A, 84th Engineer Battalion. Sexual harassment, sexism, racial discrimination and religious discrimination are some of the things EORs will have to deal with.

"This class helps educate you to know more about different cultures and different races," Thompson said.

Powell was challenged by all the homework and presentations. She said she came away from the class with the tools to be an excellent EOR.

"This course is based on fairness and equal opportunity representation. You have to be fair and unbiased. You have to be willing to listen to a person without judgment," Powell said.

The new EORs will be able to provide much needed assistance for the Soldiers here. It is

beneficial that units have their own EORs, because there is only one EOA here.

It is important because there needs to be someone in every unit who understands what issues to look for and can be there to help Soldiers discuss any problems that they might have, Powell said.

The EOR will be the eyes and ears for their command, so it is important that Soldiers in the unit trust them enough to discuss any problems they might be having.

The class teaches the EORs to recognize a problem or issue so they can fix the problem at the lowest level or assist in getting the problem solved at a higher level.

"A person comes in with a complaint. They will more than likely tell their first sergeant at a company level. The first sergeant would notify that equal opportunity representative that there is an issue there," Powell said, "The equal opportunity representative would, in my particular incident as battalion equal opportunity representative, talk to the commander to explain to him exactly what the issue is. Nine times out of 10 we can take care of the issue from that stand point."

"EORs are not allowed to handle formal complaints. Those need to go up higher and that is when Sgt. 1st Class Jason Porter would get involved," Powell said.

The students also learned that even if it isn't an equal opportunity complaint, they can help Soldiers in other ways. The EORs can listen to the Soldiers problems, so they can redirect them in the right path such as the chaplain or judge advocate general.

"The knowledge isn't only going to help me, but also help my Soldiers and my leaders," Thompson said.

If leaders are looking to have someone in their unit trained to be an EOR, another class is scheduled for the first week of November. Commanders can contact Porter at DSN 829-1214 or e-mail at [jason.wesley.porter@us.army.mil](mailto:jason.wesley.porter@us.army.mil) for more information on the class.



Photo by Spc. Leah R. Burton

**Sgt. 1st Class Jason W. Porter, equal opportunity advisor, 13th Corps Support Command, teaches EO classes here and travels to Tallil to handle EO issues there as well.**

## Units look for their own piece of history

By Capt. Sally MacDonald  
*13th COSCOM  
Administrative Law*

Unit personnel nearing the end of their Operation Iraqi Freedom mission often desire to retain Iraqi property to take to home station with them. The good news for these units is that there is now a method for lawfully retaining certain property, as published in Multinational Corps Iraq Fragmentary Order 619. The catch is, like most processes in the Army, it requires planning, preparation and patience.

General Order 1A prohibits both individual Soldiers and units from taking war trophies. However, property that is designated and approved as historical property may be removed from theater, if the proper procedure is followed.

Historical property is an item carried

on a museum's property book and is displayed in a unit area. Not all items submitted for designation as historical property will be approved. GO1A continues to apply and prohibits the retention of items of a public or private nature, for example works of art, silver tea service sets, sculptures, rugs and ornamental items.

Historical property is generally thought of as weapons or weapons systems and non-weapon items such as helmets, flags, uniforms and the like. However, this is not to say that all items of public or private nature are prohibited, but an explanation will be required to explain the military necessity and why the property should not be returned for the use of the Iraqi people.

A unit may request one weapon system and up to 12 non-weapons items. Request for common items, such as AK series weapons, rocket propelled gre-

nade launchers, and anti-aircraft guns, will typically be denied due to the large inventory the Center of Military History currently possesses.

In order to receive approval of common items, units must provide a clear link to the unit's history and coordinate with a specific curator who wishes to accept the item.

All captured equipment, not just historical items, are to be turned in at the Enemy Equipment Collection Point operated by the 593rd Corps Support Group in Taji.

Items that are requested as historical property should be tagged and submitted in accordance with the guidance provided in FRAGO 619. Do not demilitarize weapons.

To remove property out of theater there are two major requirements. First, CMH must approve and allow the item to enter the museum system. Second,

U.S. Central Command must approve and allow the item to leave its area of responsibility. Units should plan for the approval process to take no less than 60 days.

Additionally, individuals may retain souvenirs if they follow the criteria and process prescribed in Combined Joint Task Force 7 FRAGO 674. It is important to note, the policy and procedure units must follow, differs from the policy and procedure individual Soldiers must follow for retention of war souvenirs.

For more information, including relevant points of contact and complete instructions, contact your servicing judge advocate or the 13th Corps Support Command and LSA Anaconda Administrative and Operational Law section at DNV 318-829-1211.

The Administrative and Operational Law section is in a trailer next to the 13th COSCOM Headquarters building 4123.



# Unit's tragedy helps lead Soldiers to caches

By 1st Lt. Chris Heathscott  
*Army News Service*

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — A firefight on the banks of the Tigris River Oct. 3 transformed a small patrol through Taji, Iraq, into a huge operation to seek out the individuals responsible for the deaths of two 39th Brigade Soldiers.

The men involved in the operation overcame emotion in order to successfully execute a plan, which ultimately gave birth to the discovery of a major weapons cache and apparent hub of terrorist activity.

“Essentially what they had set up was an [improvised explosive device] manufacturing facility,” said Maj. Damon Cluck, Operations Officer of the 39th's 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery Regiment.

The unearthing produced 23 120-millimeter mortar rounds, a South African 155-millimeter round, and multiple detonation devices. Although representing only a small portion of the find, these are the ingredients to construct IEDs, some of which were already wired and ready for placement.

“That in itself made the cache significant in addition to the rockets and direct fire stuff that was found,” said Cluck.

## Three caches found

The plan for the operation, which resulted in the finding of a total of three caches, was conceived in response to an ambush, which killed two American Soldiers just hours earlier. The incident occurred during a joint patrol with Iraqi National Guard Soldiers, along with Soldiers from the 39th's 206th Field Artillery Regiment Oct. 3.

The firefight took the lives of Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Potts, of Tiverton, R.I., and Sgt. Russell L. Collier, of Harrison, Ark. This led to the decision to reorganize and go after those responsible by sealing off that area of Taji Village and searching 23 different homes and buildings inside.

“Immediately, we went into planning to get within 12 hours,” said Maj. Christian Neary, commander of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery Regiment, which is deployed with the 206th. “The brigade commander asked us to [wait] 24 more hours, so we could build combat power from the rest of the brigade task force. So, essentially, 36 hours later we moved down there and conducted a cordon and search.”

## Justice served, not revenge

Building combat power seemed somewhat of an understatement as hundreds of Soldiers came together to seek out the shooters. As the leadership planned the operation, the potential for strong emotions driven by the loss of their fellow Soldiers became a concern.



Photo by 1st Lt. Chris Heathscott

**A 'stack' of Iraqi National Guard Soldiers moves forward to clear a house of any potential threats prior to a team of searchers moving in to look for weapons, anti-Iraqi propaganda or other illegal contraband.**

“I didn't want them going in for revenge, but I wanted them to go in for justice,” said Neary. “We kind of pounded that into them during that 36 hours between the firefight and the mission, so that they knew we were going in there looking to find the folks that were responsible, not just looking to find anybody that was there to hold them accountable.”

As the participants gathered for an operations order at the Iraqi National Guard headquarters on the eve of the mission, Lt. Col. Keith Klemmer provided the Soldiers with a brilliant glimpse of professionalism.

“What Colonel Klemmer said was ‘there are two things that will make the mission a success,’ and this is just perfect, ‘one...is courage,’” said Staff Sgt. Shawn Buffalo, an advisor support trainer for the ING. “He didn't need to explain that. Everybody knew. We were going into an area of possible contact, because it was where we lost two fellow

soldiers. The response was so quiet in the room when he said that.

“Second thing he said was ‘honor,’” Buffalo continued. “He said ‘honor means going in there being professional Soldiers, not letting your emotions run away with you. Do your job that you were trained to do and in doing so don't dishonor the memory of Sergeant Potts and Sergeant Collier. You'll do no honor to their memory by going in there and doing something out of hate.’”

As the Soldiers worked through their emotion from the initial incident, the Klemmer's words further built upon the foundation of professionalism laid by the ING following the firefight.

## ING and U.S. troops form bond

“During that time, the ING came up, several of the officers, several of the [noncommissioned officers] that have kind of proven themselves to be more professional than we ever thought possible, and said ‘We're sorry about your loss,’” said Buffalo. “‘It's not

acceptable. We're going to do anything we can. Let us know what we can do.’”

The bond built between the Iraqi and American Soldiers had apparently strengthened due to the incident, as they worked in execution of the plan.

“My guys strong-pointed every building while the ING did the deliberate search inside the buildings looking for weapons and illegal contraband,” Neary said. “Their performance was very good. I was very pleased with their actions. They were motivated not only by the fact that they were Iraqi National Guard Soldiers, but they were also motivated because some of their guys were involved in the firefight the day before.”

## Insurgents netted included triggerman

Along with the ING, the 206th, and the 103rd, the mission included the support of Soldiers from the 39th Brigade's 2nd Battalions of both the 7th Cavalry and the 162nd Infantry. Through the joint efforts, more than 50 men were detained for questioning, with more than 20 later determined to be involved in anti-Iraq operations. Among the detainees: the triggerman responsible for the deaths of Potts and Collier.

“I really think it turned out to be kind of a part of the healing [process], because before we went in there, we didn't really know why this had happened,” Cluck said. “It was a firefight that developed out of nowhere, in an area where we'd never had a problem before. Going back in there and seeing the quantities of stuff we found really explained why the firefight had happened and why that area was so important to them that they would fight like they did two days before.”

“We found a lot of items inside of the houses and on top of the roofs,” said Capt. John Vanlandingham, officer in charge of the ING's Advisor Support Trainers. “We found three caches with numerous rockets, mortars, mortar tubes, rocket tubes; there was actually a 155 South African round that was set for an IED, it already had the wire coming out of it.

## 'Devotion winning war'

“It was a smooth operation, everybody knew what they were doing, we had time to rehearse and do some training with the ING before we went in and they did an outstanding job in their cordon and search,” Vanlandingham said.

“You bring together that diverse group...ING ... our battalion, plus support from another infantry battalion...and do that kind of [operation] and it go off without anybody getting hurt and finding the kind of stuff we found...I thought it was a pretty successful operation,” Cluck said.



# Teens learn to rappel

By Lance Cpl. Joel Abshier  
*Marine News Service*

CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan — A seventh-grade student moves closer to the top edge of a 65-foot rappel tower while looking at a Marine rappelling instructor.

The 12-year-old says, "I can't do it," but the Marine reassures the young man that he must have courage in himself to complete the task.

The student smiles, tightly grips the 11-millimeter rappelling rope and begins his descent to the ground.

The boy was among 21 Lester Middle School students who received Helicopter Rope Suspension Training here Oct. 13 to build self-confidence.

"This was a chance for the students to prove that if they can rappel, they can do anything," said Deborah Newman, Lester Middle School seventh-grade teacher, who coordinated the event. "However, the children couldn't have done it without the Marines' help."

Six Marines with Special Operations Training Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force taught the students how to tie knots, walk down the wall and inspect their gear. The Marines also explained that a belayman, located at the bottom of the tower, would pull their rope if the student lost control while descending the wall.

The students rappelled out of a hole in the tower, simulating the bottom of CH-53E Super Stallion and CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters, and they rappelled off of a flat wall, simulating the side of a building.

"Safety, confidence and trust are what (the Marines) focused on," said Sgt. Brian M. McGrath, a boat maintenance noncommissioned officer with SOTG.



Melvin T. Winn, 12, is given instruction.

The hardest part was getting the nerve to start descending, according to 11-year-old Sarah R. Barreyro.

"I was scared when I started to go over the (tower's) edge," Barreyro said. "But the Marine who was helping me said he would catch me if I let go of the ropes."

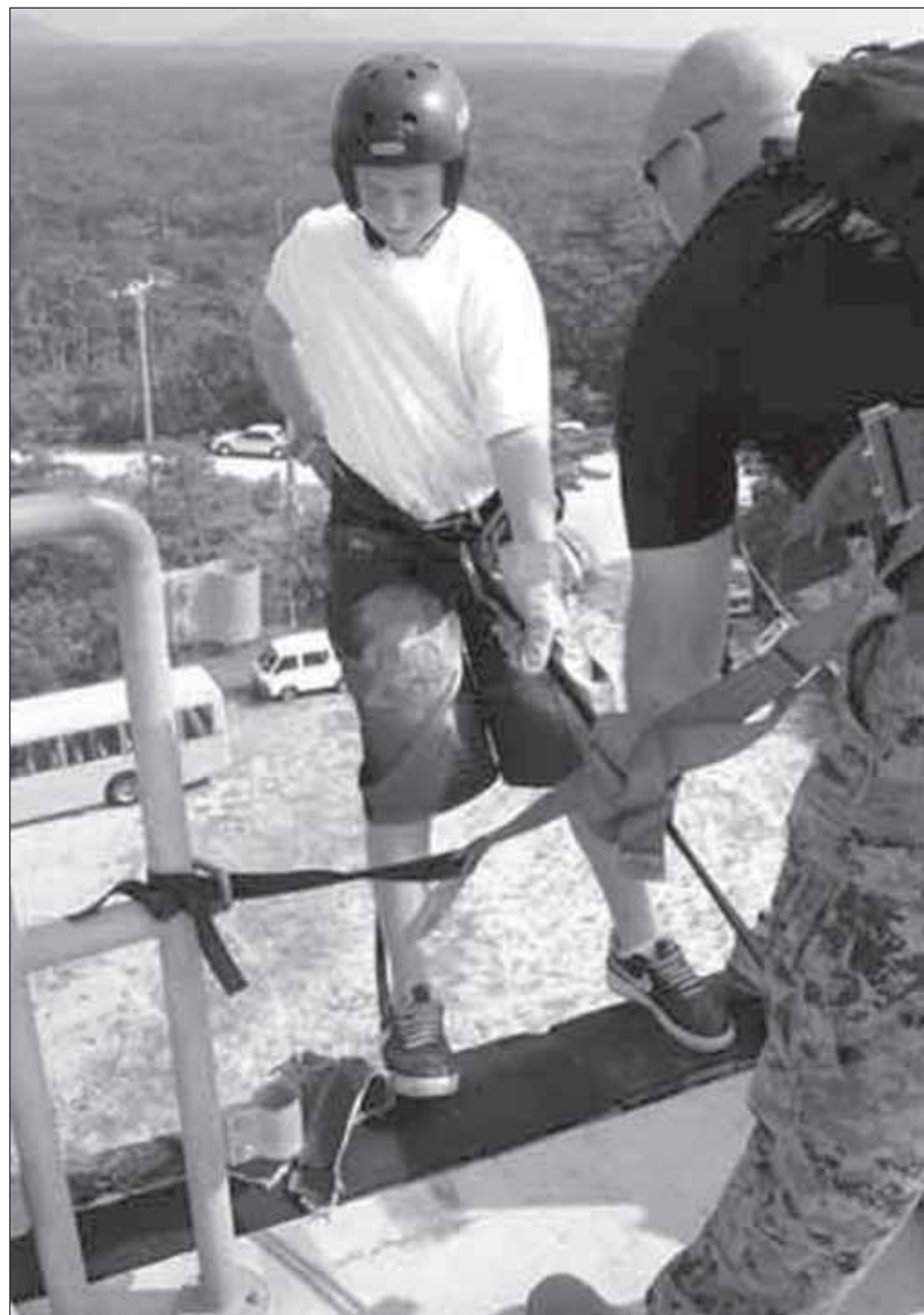
"Getting down the tower was not bad after that."

If a student accidentally started "fruit bating," which is when the student turns upside down while walking down the wall, the instructors would tell them how to get into the right position, according to Gunnery Sgt. Toshia C. Sundermier, a parent at the event who is a faculty advisor for the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

"I was laughing so hard that I slipped when I was going down the wall," said 12-year-old Melvin T. Winn. "But the (belayman) kept me from slipping any further."

Most of the students trusted the Marine instructors and belaymen at the base of the tower, according to Sgt. Jaime Garay, an HRST instructor who was helping the students from the top of the rappel tower.

"I had a young boy say he couldn't rappel after his shoe fell off while he was still at the top of the tower," Garay said. "Eventually, he rappelled to the bottom, and I could see he was proud that he did it."



Photos by Lance Cpl. Abshier

Seventh-grader Ben J. Hall, 13, looks down the side of the rappel tower as Cpl. Michael F. Shirley instructs him how to keep his legs straight Oct. 13. Shirley was among six Marines, who taught 21 Lester Middle School students how to build self-confidence.

## Army engineer volunteers help Pensacola school



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Pensacola Beach Elementary principal Jeff Castleberry assists a second-grade class in presenting thank you cards to Corps of Engineers personnel for putting up a temporary school. The cards were hand-drawn by the second graders.

By Shannon Bauer  
*Army News Service*

PENSACOLA, Fla. — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers volunteers set up facilities so that Pensacola school children could return to class after Hurricane Ivan struck.

Ivan completely destroyed Pensacola Beach Elementary Charter School, as well as 22 classrooms at Workman Middle School and 10 classrooms at Pensacola High School. The Corps' team Pensacola Emergency Response and Recovery Office acquired, delivered and set up 36 mobile homes for the Escambia County school district to use as temporary classrooms two weeks after receiving the task.

Scott Jutila, engineer for the project, said it took a huge cooperative effort between the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Corps of Engineers, the school district and the contractors to complete the project that quickly. "Everyone

knew it was important to get the kids back to school, so they knew it was a priority," he said.

The team received the assignment Sept. 29 and had trailers arriving by Oct. 2. They arrived in modules and had to be pieced together, as well as hooked up to utilities, cleaned up, and, in some cases, repaired. Jutila said one fell off the delivery truck on its way and had to have a new ceiling and light fixtures installed.

"Assisting the school district with the modular classroom units was an exciting, new challenge for the temporary housing team," said Eric Wittine, quality supervisor on the project. "To bring in the units, place them with utilities and have students in class in a two-week time period was a remarkable accomplishment. It was great to see the smiles on the kids' faces."

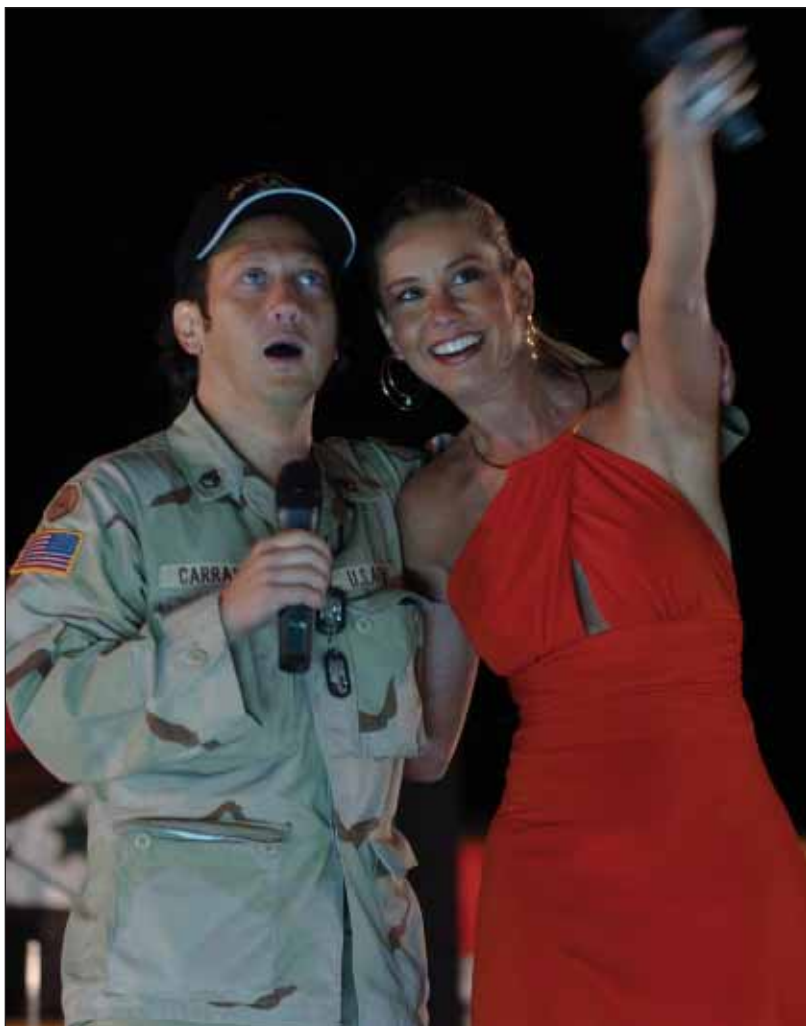
Florida Governor Jeb Bush visited the Pensacola Beach school Oct. 13 to thank the Corps and its partners for getting the school running in a timely manner.





Entertainer Wayne Newton, thrills troops by playing the violin during his variety tour’s stop here along with seven other entertainers on the USO tour Oct. 18.

Photos by Spc. Steven J. Schneider



Rob Schneider and Myrka Dellanos show their support for the troops.

## USO hits home with song, laughs

By Spc. Steven J. Schneider  
*Staff writer*

Entertainers of all sorts spread laughs, smiles and little excitement to the troops of LSA Anaconda when the United Services Organization’s Wayne Newton Variety Tour Kuwait and Iraq 2004 visited Oct. 18.

Seven entertainers, ranging in style from the talents of Newton to the tap dancing McFadden Brothers, helped service members here relax and enjoy themselves at the camp stadium. Newton said that’s why they came.

“Our job with the USO is to bring the message to the troops that America loves you, and you’re in our prayers every day,” Newton said.

The variety act spread this message through entertainment, and also by reading letters from people back home supporting the troops.

“I think it (the show) helps a lot of people forget they’re in a wartime situation, and it helps them relax,” said Sgt. Tiffany Navivad, 84th Engineer Battalion.

The troops are not the only ones who gain from the interaction with stars. Some of the entertainers felt they gained more by having the chance to come out and perform for what they called “real heroes.”

Rob Schneider, comedian and actor, described

the crowd as “the best audience in the world. I think I’m getting more out of it then these guys (the troops) are.”

Some Soldiers enjoyed the humor of Schneider, who said it can be a little nerve racking going live in front of a group of armed people.

“I better be funny,” he said, “because they’re very well armed.”

Spc. Sarah Kimmons, 81st Brigade Combat team had the opportunity to dance with country singer Neal McCoy. She described dancing on stage with McCoy as something she really enjoyed because she’s a country girl at heart.

“There ain’t nothing better in the world and no higher point of my career than coming out here to entertain the troops,” McCoy said about this tour.

He said this won’t be his last trip to Iraq either. A sentiment shared by entertainer Jenevi Bakch. Bakch, a singer, was making her eighth USO tour and said she enjoys each one in different ways.

“Each time, it’s the same on the business end,” she said. “As far as a matter of the heart, it’s always different. I’ll come out as long as I’m invited.”

Newton said he will continue to travel to where troops are as long as they’ll have him.

“I really appreciate what they did coming out here to support the troops,” said Spc. Shawn Ivey, 84th EN Bn. “It’s only a one hour or so show, but it means a lot to us Soldiers.”



Country music star Neal McCoy sings for the troops of LSA Anaconda. McCoy invited Soldiers to dance on stage with him during one of his songs.



Country singer Neal McCoy passes the microphone to Spc. Dale Holifield to tell a joke during the performance here.



Above: Singer Jenevi Bakch sings “Rolling on the River” for the LSA Anaconda troops. This is Bakch’s eighth USO tour and she plans to keep supporting the troops with her talents. Inset: The McFadden Brothers show their tap dancing skills to the crowd.





Movie Schedule

# Sustainer Reel Time Theater

Daily Shows: 3 p.m., 6 p.m., and 9 p.m.  
(schedule is subject to change)

Oct. 24

3 p.m. Suspect Zero  
6 p.m. Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2  
9 p.m. Taxi

Oct. 25

3 p.m. Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2  
6 p.m. Bourne Supremacy  
9 p.m. Suspect Zero

Oct. 26

3 p.m. I, Robot  
6 p.m. Taxi  
9 p.m. Exorcist: The Beginning

Oct. 27

3 p.m. Suspect Zero  
6 p.m. Breaking All The Rules  
9 p.m. Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2

Oct. 28

3 p.m. Collateral  
6 p.m. Exorcist: The Beginning  
9 p.m. Taxi

Oct. 29

3 p.m. Friday Night Lights  
6 p.m. Hero  
9 p.m. Hero

Oct. 30

3 p.m. Friday Night Lights  
6 p.m. Cookout  
9 p.m. Friday Night Lights

Superbabies



Suspect Zero

## Weekly Religious Schedule

**Roman Catholic Mass**

Sunday 8:30 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent  
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel  
Sunday noon Anaconda Provider Chapel  
Monday 6:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel  
Monday 9 p.m. PPI Dining Facility  
Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel  
Friday 6:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel  
*Sacrament of Reconciliation*  
Friday 6 p.m Air Force Hospital Chapel

**Church of Christ**

Sunday 11 a.m. 1/142nd Chapel Tent

**Christian Orthodox**

Saturday 7 p.m. 185th Task Force Tent  
Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent

**Protestant-Gospel**

11 a.m.Sustainer Indoor Theater  
7 p.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

**Lutheran**

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Cherokee Chapel (bldg. 4002)  
Sunday 2 p.m. 185th Task Force Tent

**Protestant-Contemporary**

Sunday 7 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel

**Protestant-Traditional**

Sunday 9 a.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Anaconda Provider Chapel  
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel  
Sunday 11 a.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)  
Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Aviation Group Chapel

**Protestant-Praise and Worship**

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent  
Sunday 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

**Islamic Prayer**

Friday 1:30 p.m. Anaconda Provider Chapel

**Latter Day Saints**

Sunday 1 p.m. Anaconda Provider Chapel  
Sunday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

**Jewish Prayer**

Saturday 6:30 p.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

## Movie Synopsis for Oct. 24-30

**Suspect Zero**

R, Crime, 99 min  
Aaron Eckhart, Ben Kingsley, Carrie-Anne Moss

We meet Agent Thomas Mackelway on his first day of work at the Albuquerque field office of the FBI. Mackelway, wrestling with secrets and demons from his past, is plagued by headaches and feels that he is being watched. And in fact he is ... but by whom? Mackelway finds himself mysteriously drawn into a bizarre series of murders: the salesman from the diner found dead in his car on the deserted New Mexico border; a sixth grade teacher from Boulder, Co, discovered in an abandoned vehicle in the diner parking lot; and Mackelway's own personal nemesis, killed while attacking a young girl. Mackelway's former partner, Fran Kulok, who knows Mackelway's deepest secrets, is sent to Albuquerque to assist him on the case. Together, they set out to solve this lethal puzzle. The case becomes increasingly personal as Mackelway's determination turns to obsession.

**Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2**

PG, Comedy, 88 min  
Jon Voight, Scott Baio, Vanessa Angel

Directed by Bob Clark, Super Babies: Baby Geniuses 2 follows a new generation of ultra-smart talking toddlers who have landed in the center of a dastardly scheme perpetrated by media mogul Bill Biscane (Jon Voight). With the help of Kahuna (Leo, Miles, and Gerry Fitzgerald); part spy, part super-hero, all baby Archie (Michael and Max Iles); Finkleman (Jordan and Jared Scheiderman); Alex (Joshua and Maxwell Lockhart); and Rosita (Keana and Maia Bastidas), the youngsters set off in hopes of preventing Biscane from launching a state-of-the-art satellite system which, if successful, would be capable of worldwide mind control.

**Taxi**

PG-13, Action, 100 min  
Queen Latifah, Jimmy Fallon, Gisele Bundchen

An inept cop suddenly gets a cabbie with attitude as his new partner in this high-rolling comedy. Washburn (Jimmy Fallon) is a cop who becomes the laughingstock of the department after a series of traffic accidents cause him to lose his driver's license. One day, Washburn gets an urgent call to head out to the location of a bank robbery; unable to drive himself there, he hails a cab. As it happens, the taxi is being driven by Belle (Queen Latifah), a single mom who, after making a name for herself as the fastest pizza delivery person in New York, has moved up to driving a hack. What begins as a wild ride to the scene of the crime gets even wilder as Washburn and Belle become unexpected allies while following the trail of a team of beautiful but reckless female bank robbers led by Vanessa (Gisele Bundchen).

**I, Robot**

PG-13, Science Fiction, 110 min  
Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan, Alan Tudyk

Director Alex Proyas (Dark City, The Crow) helmed this sci-fi thriller inspired by the stories in Isaac Asimov's nine-story anthology of the same name. In the future presented in the film, humans have become exceedingly dependent on robots in their everyday lives. Robots have become more and more advanced, but each one is preprogrammed to always obey humans and to, under no circumstances, ever harm a human. So, when a scientist turns up dead and a humanoid robot is the main suspect, the world is left to wonder if they are as safe around their electronic servants as previously thought. Will Smith stars as Del Spooner, the robot-hating Chicago cop assigned to the murder investigation.



# Contractors keep Internet cafes up, running

By Spc. Leah R. Burton  
Staff writer

The Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center's contracted civilians provide Internet and telephone services to service members all over Iraq and Kuwait.

The SPAWAR service serves as an affordable means for service members to keep in contact with their loved ones.

When units sign for Internet café systems from the Multinational Corps-Iraq, the SPAWAR technicians supply the equipment and train the service members on basic troubleshooting and equipment maintenance.

"We have about six technicians that service the entire area, and they do all the installing and assembling to get the sites up and running," said Bill Sealock, project manager.

After the installation of the systems, the units are responsible for the daily upkeep of the Internet and telephone equipment.

Often the equipment requires maintenance that the Soldiers aren't qualified to provide. The Internet café manager can call the SPAWAR technicians to come out and fix the problem.

The assistance comes at a cost, however, because the unit is then responsible for transporting, housing and ensuring the safety of the technicians.

"We have a group of dedicated technicians who are in this [area of operations,] who intermingle with the troops and really are ambassadors for selling this program and making it the best it can be," Sealock said.

Currently, SPAWAR is testing a new service provider, called OpenBand, offering better performance and lower

long distance rates, at certain Internet cafés on post.

"In service to the interest of the Soldier, SPAWAR spent the last year searching for better ways to serve the Soldiers and provide superior service," Sealock said.

While SPAWAR is in the test phase with the new provider, patrons might not be able to use their prepaid Segovia minutes at some sites.

To compensate for the inconvenience, SPAWAR representatives have visited the test sites and offered free minutes to patrons of the cafés.

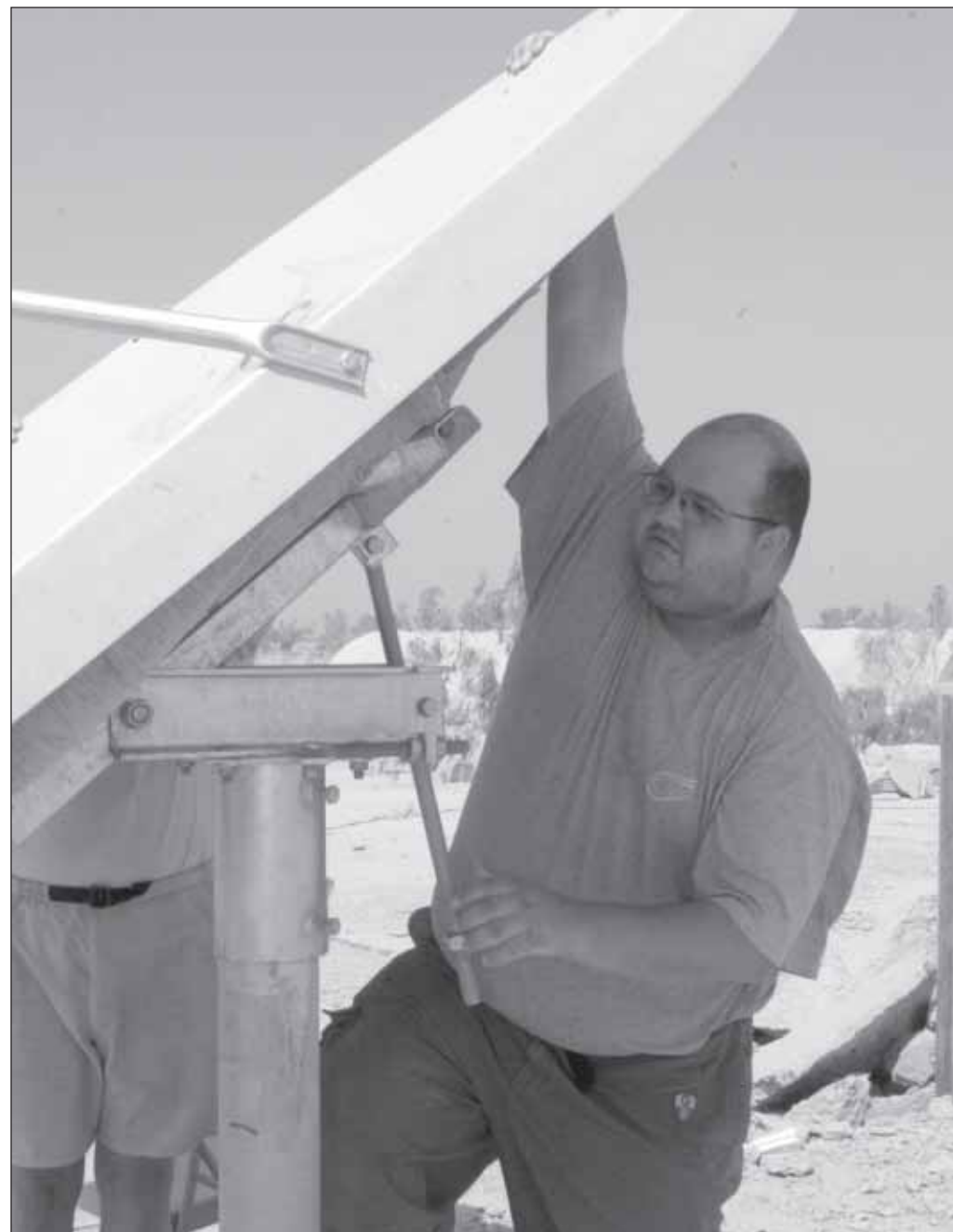
The benefits of switching from Segovia to OpenBand are much faster, more dependable service and cheaper rates for Soldiers because the OpenBand rate is 4 cents per minute, as opposed to Segovia's 4.7 cents per minute.

"There will be a 60-day grace period for each site where the old minutes will be accepted. Furthermore, if a Soldier is unable to consume his minutes before the grace period expires, the minutes are valid indefinitely and can be used on any phone stateside using the 1-800 access number for MWRTel, the long distance carrier," Sealock said.

Customers with an existing balance on the MWRTel system using the auto-recharge function should disable this feature by logging into their account at <https://app1.itd.net/debit/segovia/account/login.asp>.

The SPAWAR Web site at <https://ipcalling.openband.net> allows customers to open a new account, manage that account, view current domestic and long distance calling rates and offers directory assistance and service support.

Instructions and additional information are available at this Web site.



Photos by Spc. Leah R. Burton

**Darren Ferguson, a programmer with the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, repositions a satellite dish to obtain reception.**



**Bill Sealock, project manager for SPAWAR and Shirk, reconnect several cables on a satellite dish.**



**Bill Shirk, a field technician with SPAWAR, conducts maintenance on a satellite dish here. These dishes provide Internet and telephone services to the many Internet cafes on post.**



# Military police conduct patrols to serve, protect

By Pvt. Chelsea Mack  
81st BCT Public Affairs

In the civilian world, the police go by the motto "To protect and to serve." At LSA Anaconda, the military police of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 81st Brigade Combat Team, do a lot more.

The MPs have had several different missions since the arrival of the 81st BCT in theater.

"We were providing convoy security," said Pfc. Gary Martin, a gunner. "I loved convoy security, because we went everywhere and saw everything."

The MPs were tasked with convoy security for only a few months, until they inherited a new mission.

"The new mission was to conduct patrols – more specifically, to patrol [a route leading from LSA Anaconda to the main highway], unless we were told to go somewhere else," said Sgt. Kevin Compton, a team leader.

Route patrol has been the primary mission for the MPs since June 2004.

"We've been patrolling ... for about three months," said Pfc. Chase Deschamps, a gunner. "We're usually out there every

day."

While on patrol, the MPs look for certain factors that pose a threat to the security of all those residing on LSA Anaconda and the surrounding area.

"We look for IEDs (improvised explosive devices), landmines, POO (point of origin) sites, hijackings, contra-band and stuff like that," said Sgt. Richard Edgemon, a squad leader.

"We also look for cars on the

'Be on the Look-out list'," said Pfc. Ben Yost, a gunner. "This is a list of cars that has been marked as being suspicious and that we have been told to look for."

Patrols are not the only task that the MPs conduct. They have begun to augment the training of the Iraqi National Guard.

"For the last couple of weeks, we have started taking the ING out on afternoon patrols,"

Compton said. "They have just finished their initial training cycle with TF Chinook. We helped to train them inside the wire for a couple of days; then we took them out with us. We simply observe, support and protect them if we have to."

The MPs are teaching the ING the skills they will need once the coalition forces pull out of Iraq.

"We train them on how to conduct searches, what to

search, and what to look for when they do a search," Deschamps said. "We're trying to teach them what to do so they can do it on their own."

The ING have been receptive to the training and have become a complementary force.

"They [ING] are very open to what we are trying to teach them," Compton said. "There's obviously a language barrier, but they do understand what we are teaching them. Actually, it has been very nice to have them out with us. When we go outside the wire without them, we would have to pull tons of security."

"I'm really impressed with them; they're doing really well," Yost said. "They're learning, just like we had to."

The continuation of the training with the ING is tenuous, since the MPs are unsure about their own future.

"We don't know when our new mission will start," said Staff Sgt. Shane Possinger, squad leader for the MPs. "We're just waiting for word."

Although the future of the MPs is uncertain, Soldiers of the 81st BCT can be sure that no matter what the MPs will be doing in the near future, they will do their best to serve and protect everyone.



Courtesy photos

**Pfc. Clay Hull, a sniper from the 81st Brigade Combat Team Military Police Platoon, sits atop a building at an observation point.**



**During a mission, the MPs stop to converse with the local Iraqis.**



**A Soldier from the MP platoon takes a break from a mission atop his Humvee.**



**Hull makes radio contact with the rest of his platoon from his observation point.**



# Father, son bond during deployment at Spiecher



The Saunders -- father Staff Sgt. Darren C. Saunder and his son Sgt. Brandon C. Saunders -- are both transportation coordinators with the 536th Movement Control Team, stationed in Camp Spiecher. Both said that this deployment has brought them closer together.

Courtesy Photos

By Sgt. Ann Venturato  
Assistant editor

The bond between father and son is strong, but for a father and son stationed in Tikrit, Iraq; those bonds have grown that much stronger throughout their deployment here.

Staff Sgt. Darren C. Saunders and Sgt. Brandon C. Saunders are both transportation coordinators with the 536th Movement Control Team who are serving at Camp Spiecher. They arrived with their unit in Iraq at the end of January from Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Initially both had diverse feelings about their upcoming adventure.

"I had mixed emotions ... I was wary of the uncertainties and the unknown," Darren said.

"I felt excited because I was ready to do my part for our freedom," Brandon said.

Darren said he was overwhelmed by the extreme poverty in Iraq.



Brandon and his father Darren are stationed together with the 536th Movement Control Team, from Port. St. Lucie, Fla. in Tikrit.

"After seeing first hand the problems in this country, I realize the gravity of the situation, and I understand why we should be here. Our cause is just," the elder Saunders said.

Brandon had a similar impression the first time he left the safety of his post and saw the countryside.

"It wasn't good ... there was nothing at all in sight when we landed," Brandon said.

With both being transportation coordinators, they sometimes get to go on missions together, but their command doesn't encourage it because of the risks involved with being on the roads. Experience has made them both aware of those risks.

"The most difficult part of my job is meeting people who don't make it back," Darren said.

Providing the latest road conditions information is an essential part of mission safety, something that can save lives in the 536th MCT. Darren said that the most enjoyable part of his job is when he is able to forecast a potential problem that saves lives.

While the two worry about convoys going out on the roads, others have different concerns.

"Our family is worried about us both, but they all feel better knowing that we are here together to help each other out," Brandon said.

The two help each other out by being supportive and being there for each other.

"Having to lean on each other, we've become a lot closer," Darren said.

The two have bonded so much that both are planning on a tropical vacation once they have redeployed.

## Question of the Week

# Under what terms would you re-enlist?



**Sgt. Ronald Jones**  
3625th Maintenance Company

"They would have to improve the training for Soldiers. Things go at such a fast pace now that sometimes training is put off."



**Sgt. Jeremy Hedges**  
29th Signal Battalion

"I would have to have location of choice. My choices are Germany, Hawaii, or Italy. I want to travel somewhere other than Iraq."



**Airman 1st Class Jason Rybarczyk**  
2632nd Truck Company

"I would re-enlist to keep an assignment, travel or go to college."



**Senior Airman Leon Fletcher**  
332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron

"No conditions. It's my time to go."



**Spc. Mark Hull**  
961st Quartermaster Company

"More tax free money."



# MWR Complex Schedule

## Dominos

Come to the MWR tent for a exciting domino tournaments today, 8 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday.

## Pool

8-ball tournaments will be held at 8 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tuesday. 9-ball tournaments will be held 8 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday.

## Spades

Spades tournaments are scheduled for 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. today.

## Table Tennis

Table Tennis tournaments will be held 8 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesday.

## Music

The MWR Sport Lounge features different types of music each night Monday through Saturday 8 p.m. to midnight.

Mondays -- Jazz and old school  
Tuesdays -- Rock  
Wednesdays -- Country  
Thursdays -- Tejano and Hispanic  
Fridays -- R&B  
Saturdays -- Salsa and Latino

## Halloween party

Come join the MWR in celebrating Halloween Oct. 31.

# LSA Anaconda Fitness Center

## Judo

The LSA Anaconda Fitness Center has Judo classes 8:30 p.m. today, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

## Aerobics

There will be an aerobics class Monday through Saturday at 6 p.m. Staff Sgt. Adrian B. Woodson teaches classes on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

## Volleyball

The volleyball tournaments championship is tonight.

## Karate

Karate classes will be held Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

## Capoeira

Capoeira is scheduled for 6 p.m. every Sunday and Thursday and 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays.

# Spades tournament

If you like to play cards today's spades tournaments at the MWR facility might be the place for you. Just show up at 2 p.m. or 8 p.m. for a good match.

# 8-Ball Tournament

Just Show up and prove you're the best at LSA Anaconda.

When: Tuesday, 8 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Where: MWR



# Rock the Night Away

*If you like bands like Pearl Jam, Nirvana and Alice in Chains, join other fans of Alternative Rock Tuesday nights, 8 p.m. to midnight at the MWR Lounge. Let DJ Cobra take you to the next level of rock.*



# DESERT MOON GROVE



is hosting a Halloween celebration Oct. 31  
in building 4060, Bay 30 at 1 p.m.



*An eclectic pagan religious group of Soldiers meet nightly for coffee and conversation after 5 p.m. in building 4060, Bay 30.*

There will be snacks, astrology charts and Pagan fellowship.

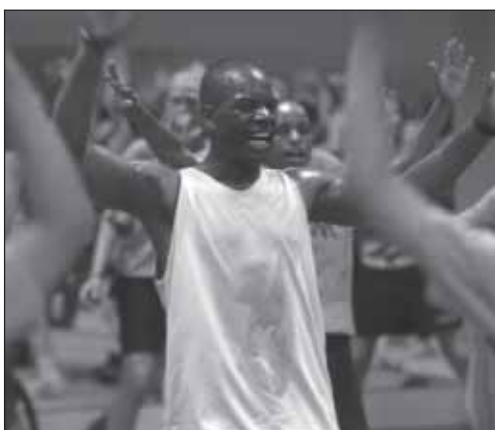
Get to know someone of a different religious preference.

Contact Sgt. Eric Cooper at DNVT 529-6281 or e-mail [medicyne\\_eagle@yahoo.com](mailto:medicyne_eagle@yahoo.com) for more information.





Woodson leads Soldiers at the beginning of his aerobics workout.



Woodson gets just as excited as everyone attending his aerobics class. Woodson pushes his body to the limit for his students during aerobics and expects his students to do the same for him. Woodson tries to make his class fun for people, so they don't think about being tired.



Photos by Spc. Steven J. Schneider

Staff Sgt. Adrian B. Woodson leads his aerobics class in the center of the circular formation Oct. 14 at the Anaconda Fitness Center

# Soldier instructor makes aerobics fun

By Spc. Steven J. Schneider  
Staff writer

High speed, non-stop and fun are just a few ways to describe the aerobics program Staff Sgt. Adrian B. Woodson, 644th Transportation Company, has started here.

It started off as one day a week in July, but as his class grew in size from about 10 to 50 to 60 people a night it not only outgrew the number of classes but also the aerobics room.

Classes are offered three times week, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 6 p.m. in the LSA Anaconda Fitness Center and all for free. Often the class must be held on the basketball courts because of the numbers attending.

He also does aerobics with units for physical training in the morning.

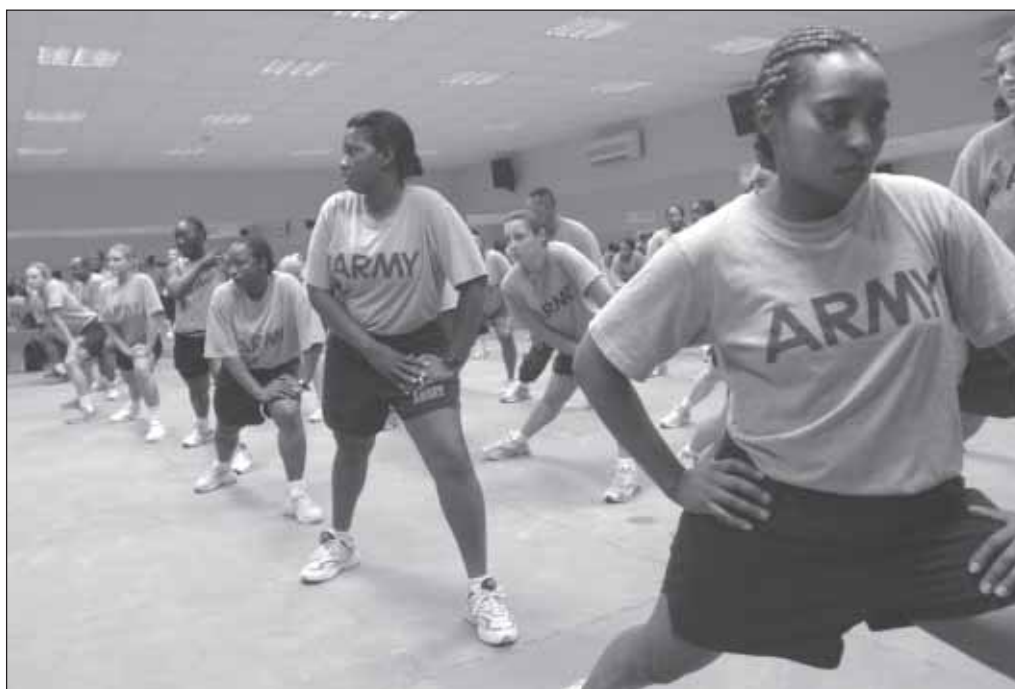
Woodson said in his class there is no rank and he isn't "Staff Sgt. Woodson" there. He's just "Woody" as he likes to be called.

"It's a place you can go for an hour and a half to forget that people are shooting at you," he said.

The hour to hour-and-a-half class consists of stretching, 30 minutes of cardio and muscle failure workouts.

He said the reaction he gets is payment in plenty for his time.

Woodson has taught aerobics everywhere he's been since he was



Sgt. Jemmimah Gitau, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 81st Brigade Combat Team, stretches before Woodson's aerobics class.

certified as an instructor at Fort Gordon in 1995. He didn't find aerobics appealing at first, but after his brother and aunt who are both aerobics instructors and in the Army got him started, he never looked back.

"After the first class I went to, I was hooked," Woodson said.

Woodson said he's never had a negative response to his classes but has never seen his students react the way they have here. He knew once he started his workouts, people would

start to come.

According to Quincy Richardson, fitness center manager, Woodson is succeeding in attracting all kinds of people to his program just by doing the job.

"He has really improved the aerobic clientele overnight," Richardson said. "When he came in to ask to instruct, he told me his class would be a success."

Woodson doesn't have a traditional aerobics class. His class turns into a



Woodson smiles leading his class.

circle with him jumping up and down, pumping the students up as hip hop, jazz or R&B keep the beat going in the background.

Woodson picked the music for people from all generations, and all generations attend. He has had privates to colonels in ranks.

Woodson's circular formation allows him to interact with students better.

Woodson loves to interact with students and they seem to enjoy working out with him.

"I have had nothing but positive feedback," he said.

While everyone has fun, they still get a great workout. The class can help greatly with physical fitness in the field by providing a way to release tension, helping with cardio fitness and stamina, and by helping build muscles not used in regular workout plans, Woodson said.

To schedule Woodson for PT email the fitness center at [Quincy.Richardson@halliburton.com](mailto:Quincy.Richardson@halliburton.com).





Photos by Sgt. Annette Andrews

Staff Sgt. Patricia K. Largent, 660th Transportation Company, while on a school supply distribution mission, is about to accept a piece of fruit from children at Al Hatamia village school near LSA Anaconda, Iraq Oct. 16.



A young Iraqi student anxiously awaits receiving a portion of the 500 individually wrapped bags of school supplies that were delivered by the 660th Transportation Company Soldiers to the children in Al Hatamia village.

# If the spirit is willing it will be done

By Sgt. Annette B. Andrews  
Editor

Providing much needed supplies to the school children of Al Hatamia village, near LSA Anaconda, a group of Reservists, who made that delivery, nourished their warrior spirit Oct 16.

Soldiers from the 660th Transportation Company, 7th Transportation Battalion from Cadiz, Ohio, delivered 500 individually packed essentials to help give local children a better start in a life.

"They acted like they had never seen these things before," said Sgt. Rocco A. Elia. "Helping children here, in America and all over the world makes a better life and teaches the younger generation to get along."

The Soldiers agreed with each other that lending the Iraqis a helping hand demonstrates the good intentions of the American people.

On a typical day the 660th Trans. Co. hauls Class III fuel to forward operating bases. It's a long haul; a lot of road covered and these Soldiers thought for the past nine months that they were only seeing the worst events after leaving the gate.

So with 23 volunteers, the Soldiers gathered supplies that had been sent from all over Ohio and convoyed the

short distance from LSA Anaconda to see an alternative part of Iraq.

"There was a genuine friendliness that I hadn't seen [before] in this country," said Capt. Joseph B. Shalosky.

Each Soldier wanted to see something different from the daily trials of improvised explosive devices, vehicle-borne IEDs, small arms fire, rockets and land mines.

"I too want to see something good," said 1st Sgt. John C. Taylor in reference to the school supply distribution mission. "I want to know that what we're doing here means something."

The Soldiers, mostly gun teams that run the convoys, said they know they are doing their part in rebuilding the country. Still, they needed that extra inspiration from the smile of a small child.

"Just to get a chance to see the kids that we are actually helping. To see what we are productively doing," said Desert Storm veteran Staff Sgt. William R. Herrmann while he interacted with the children. "When you're mostly dealing with insurgents going down the road – well, it's a different view of the mission, being here today."

The men and women of the 660th Trans. Co. watched the excitement filter through the school like a small fire about to turn wild. The smiles from children of all ages blazed as Soldiers handed out



Sgt. Angela D. Ross, 660th Transportation Company, jokes with youngsters at the school gate of Al Hatamia village.

bags of goodies making warrior hearts burn.

"It was like bees going to honey," Taylor said of the gifts received. "It's one of the only things we see that makes it all worthwhile. It makes [us] feel good and supports the reason why [we are] here."

The 660th Trans. Co., with the Army Materiel Command and 13th Corps Support Command Civil Affairs office – who also contributed supplies – undertook this joint venture to deliver items

some children needed for school, but it turned out to be more.

"Hopefully, I got to make a difference in somebody's life," Elia said.

Since their arrival in February, the unit has suffered the loss of four service members in duty related incidents, 26 others have been injured and the Soldiers were still willing to convoy out on this humanitarian mission. The first sergeant even had to turn away a dozen or so volunteers.